

High-Level Language

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This presentation contains lecture materials that accompany the textbook “The Elements of Computing Systems” by Noam Nisan & Shimon Schocken, MIT Press, 2005.

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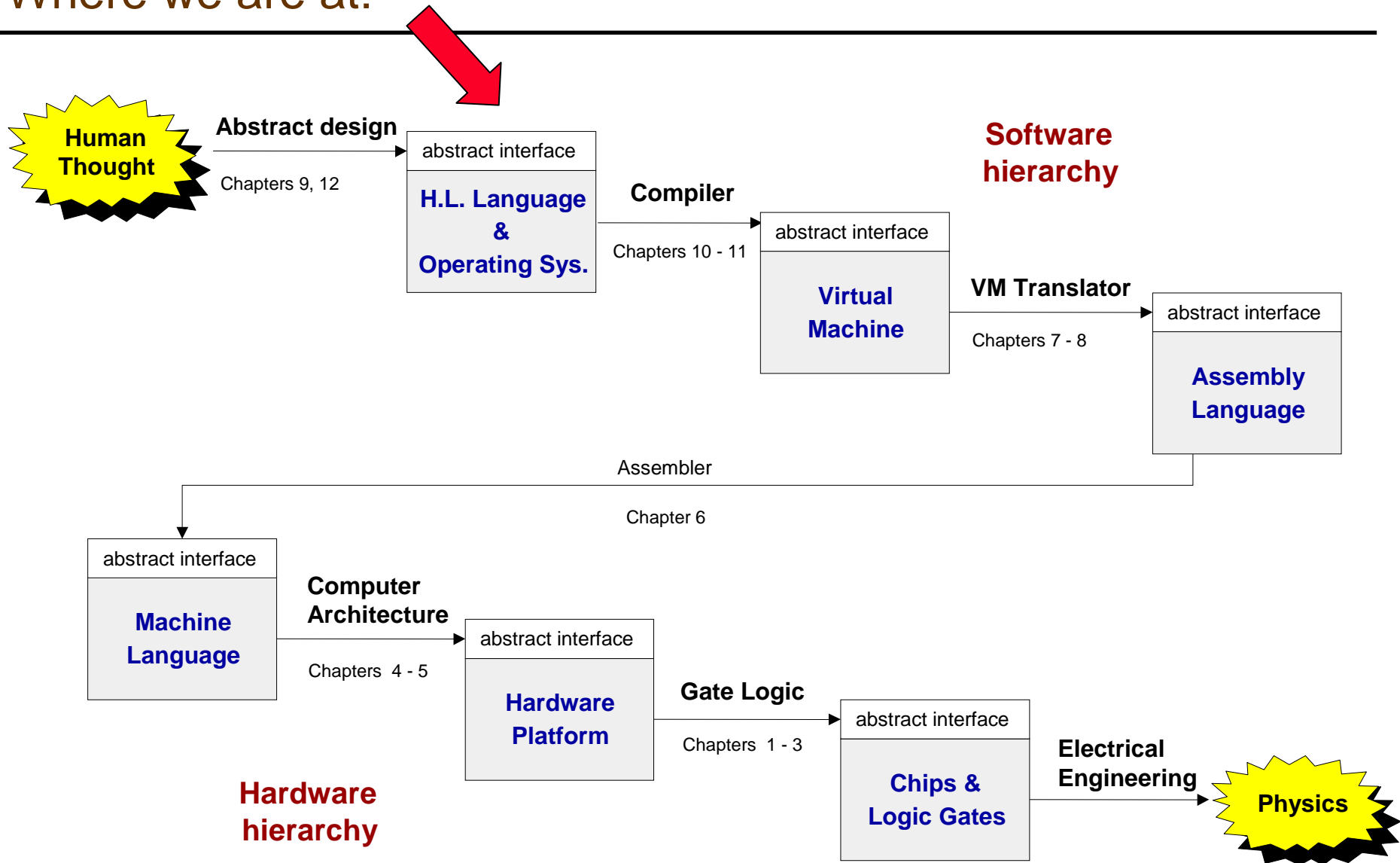
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Where we are at:



Brief history of programming languages

- Machine language
- Assembler: symbolic programming
- Fortran: formula translation
- Algol: structured programming, recursion
- Pascal, C: industrial strength compilers
- C++: OO
- Java, C#: OO done reasonably well
- Lisp / Scheme / Haskell: Functional programming
- Many other programming paradigms and languages.

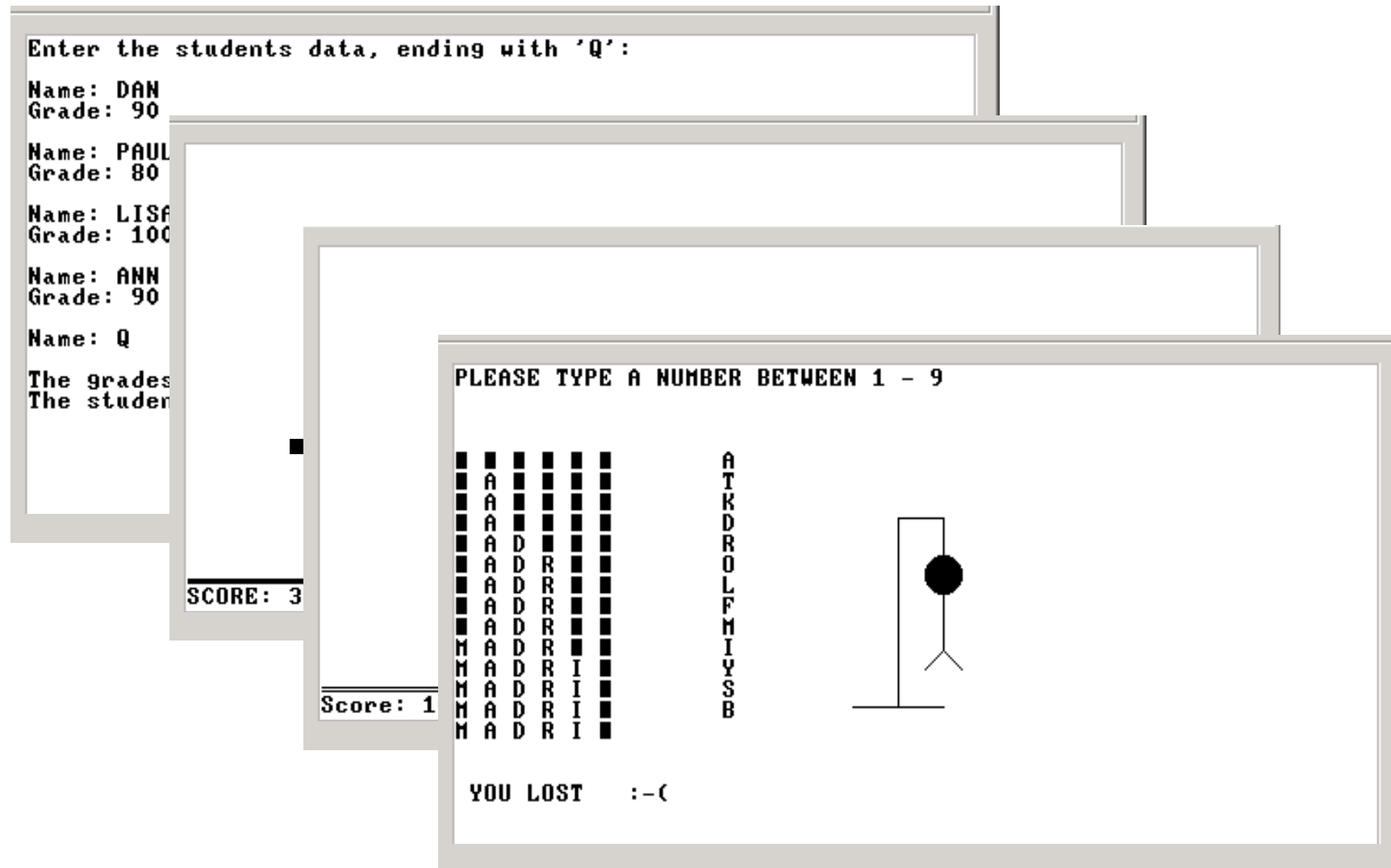
The OO approach to programming

- Object = entity associated with properties (fields) and operations (methods)
- Objects are instances of *classes*
E.g. bank account, employee, transaction, window, gameSession, ...
- OO programming: identifying, designing and implementing classes
- "Static class": a collection of static methods.

An OO programming language can be used for ...

- Procedural programming
- Abstract data types
- Concrete objects
- Abstract objects
- Graphical objects
- Software libraries
- And more.

Jack: a typical OO language -- sample applications



Disclaimer

- Although Jack is a real programming language, we don't view it as an *end*
- Rather, we view Jack as a *means* for teaching
 - How to build a compiler
 - How the compiler and the language interface with the OS
 - How the topmost piece in the software hierarchy fits into the picture
- Jack can be learned (and un-learned) in one hour.

Example 0: hello world

```
/** Hello World program. */  
class Main {  
    function void main() {  
        /* Prints some text using the standard library. */  
        do Output.printString("Hello World");  
        do Output.println();      // New line  
        return;  
    }  
}
```

- Java-like syntax
- Comments
- Standard library.

Example 1: procedural programming

```
class Main {  
  
    /* Sums up 1 + 2 + 3 + ... + n */  
    function int sum(int n) {  
        var int i, sum;  
        let sum = 0;  
        let i = 1;  
        while (~(i > n)) {  
            let sum = sum + i;  
            let i = i + 1;  
        }  
        return sum;  
    }  
  
    function void main() {  
        var int n, x;  
        let n = Keyboard.readInt("Enter n: ");  
        let x = Main.sum(n);  
        do Output.printString("The result is: ");  
        do Output.printInt(sum);  
        do Output.println();  
        return;  
    }  
} // Main
```

- Jack program = collection of one or more classes
- Jack class = collection of one or more subroutines
- Jack subroutine:
 - Function
 - Method
 - Constructor
 - (the example on the left has functions only, as it is "object-less")
- There must be at least one class named **Main**, and one of its methods must be named **main**.

Example 2: OO programming

```
class BankAccount {
  static int nAccounts;

  // account properties
  field int id;
  field String owner;
  field int balance;

  /* Constructs a new bank account. */
  constructor BankAccount new(String aOwner) {
    let id = nAccounts;
    let nAccounts = nAccounts + 1;
    let owner = aOwner;
    let balance = 0;
    return this;
  }
  // ... More BankAccount methods.
} // BankAccount
```

```
...
var int sum;
var BankAccount b, c;

let b = BankAccount.new("Joe");
...
```

Example 2: typical OO programming (cont.)

```
class BankAccount {
    static int nAccounts;

    // account properties
    field int id;
    field String owner;
    field int balance;

    // Constructor ... (omitted)

    /* Deposits money in this account. */
    method void deposit(int amount) {
        let balance = balance + amount;
        return;
    }

    /* Withdraws money from this account. */
    method void withdraw(int amount){
        if (balance > amount) {
            let balance = balance - amount;
        }
        return;
    }

    // ... More BankAccount methods.
} // BankAccount
```

```
...
var int sum;
var BankAccount b, c;

let b = BankAccount.new("Joe");
do b.deposit(5000);

let c = BankAccount.new("jane");
let sum = 1000;
do b.withdraw(sum);
...
```

Example 2: typical OO programming (cont.)

```
class BankAccount {
  static int nAccounts;

  // account properties
  field int id;
  field String owner;
  field int balance;

  // Constructor ... (omitted)

  /* Prints information about this account. */
  method void printInfo() {
    do Output.printInt(ID);
    do Output.printString(owner);
    do Output.printInt(balance);
    return;
  }

  /* Destroys this account. */
  method void dispose() {
    do Memory.deAlloc(this);
    return;
  }

  // ... More BankAccount methods.
} // BankAccount
```

```
...
var int sum;
var BankAccount b, c;

let b = BankAccount.new("Joe");

// manipulates b...

do b.printInfo();
do b.dispose();
...
```

Example 3: abstract data types (API + usage)

- Motivation: Jack has three primitive data types: int, char, boolean

```
// An object representation of n/m where n and m are integers (e.g. 17/253).  
field int numerator, denominator      // Fraction object properties  
constructor Fraction new(int a, int b) // Returns a new Fraction object  
method int getNumerator()             // Returns the numerator of this fraction  
method int getDenominator()           // Returns the denominator of this fraction  
method Fraction plus(Fraction other)  // Returns the sum of this fraction and  
                                      // another fraction, as a fraction  
method void print()                   // Prints this fraction in the format  
                                      // "numerator/denominator"  
  
// Additional fraction-related services are specified here, as needed.
```

**Fraction
API**

```
// Computes the sum of 2/3 and 1/5.  
class Main {  
  function void main() {  
    var Fraction a, b, c;  
    let a = Fraction.new(2,3);  
    let b = Fraction.new(1,5);  
    let c = a.plus(b); // Compute c = a + b  
    do c.print(); // Should print the text "13/15"  
    return;  
  }  
}
```

**Using the Fraction API
(example)**

- API = public contract
- Interface / implementation.

Example 3: abstract data types (implementation)

```
/** Provides the Fraction type and related services. */
class Fraction {

    field int numerator, denominator;

    constructor Fraction new(int a, int b) {
        let numerator = a; let denominator = b;
        do reduce(); // If a/b is not reduced, reduce it
        return this;
    }

    method void reduce() {
        // Reduces the fraction - see the book.
    }

    function int gcd(int a, int b){
        // Computes the greatest common denominator of a and b. See the book.
    }

    method int getNumerator() {
        return numerator;
    }

    method int getDenominator() {
        return denominator;
    }

    // More methods follow.
}
```

Example 3: abstract data types (implementation cont.)

```
/** Provides the Fraction type and related services. */
class Fraction {

    // Fields, constructor, and methods from previous slide come here ...

    /** Returns the sum of this fraction and another one. */
    method Fraction plus(Fraction other){
        var int sum;
        let sum = (numerator * other.getDenominator())
                +(other.getNumerator() * denominator());
        return Fraction.new(sum, denominator * other.getDenominator());
    }

    // More fraction-related methods come here: minus, times, div, etc.

    /** Prints this fraction. */
    method void print() {
        do Output.printInt(numerator);
        do Output.printString("/");
        do Output.printInt(denominator);
        return;
    }
} // Fraction class
```

Example 4: linked list

```
/** Represents a linked list. */
class List {
  field int data;
  field List next;

  /* Creates a new List object. */
  constructor List new(int car, List cdr) {
    let data = car;
    let next = cdr;
    return this;
  }

  /* Disposes this List by recursively disposing its tail. */
  method void dispose() {
    if (~(next = null)) {
      do next.dispose();
    }
    do Memory.deAlloc(this);
    return;
  }
  ...
} // class List.
```

```
class Foo {
  ...
  // Creates a list holding the numbers (2,3,5).
  function void create235() {
    var List v;
    let v = List.new(5,null);
    let v = List.new(2,List.new(3,v));
    ...
  }
}
```


Jack language specification

- Syntax
- Data types
- Variable kinds
- Expressions
- Statements
- Subroutine calling
- Program structure
- Standard library

(for complete language specification, see the book).

Jack syntax

White space and comments	Space characters, newline characters, and comments are ignored. The following comment formats are supported: <pre>// Comment to end of line /* Comment until closing */ /** API documentation comment */</pre>	
Symbols	<pre>()</pre> Used for grouping arithmetic expressions and for enclosing parameter-lists and argument-lists <pre>[]</pre> Used for array indexing; <pre>{ }</pre> Used for grouping program units and statements; <pre>,</pre> Variable list separator; <pre>;</pre> Statement terminator; <pre>=</pre> Assignment and comparison operator; <pre>.</pre> Class membership; <pre>+ - * / & ~ < ></pre> Operators.	
Reserved words	<pre>class, constructor, method, function</pre> <pre>int, boolean, char, void</pre> <pre>var, static, field</pre> <pre>let, do, if, else, while, return</pre> <pre>true, false, null</pre> <pre>this</pre>	<pre>Program components</pre> <pre>Primitive types</pre> <pre>Variable declarations</pre> <pre>Statements</pre> <pre>Constant values</pre> <pre>Object reference</pre>

Jack syntax (cont.)

Constants	<p><i>Integer</i> constants must be positive and in standard decimal notation, e.g., 1984. Negative integers like -13 are not constants but rather expressions consisting of a unary minus operator applied to an integer constant.</p> <p><i>String</i> constants are enclosed within two quote (") characters and may contain any characters except <i>newline</i> or <i>double-quote</i>. (These characters are supplied by the functions <code>String.newLine()</code> and <code>String.doubleQuote()</code> from the standard library.)</p> <p><i>Boolean</i> constants can be true or false.</p> <p>The constant <code>null</code> signifies a null reference.</p>
Identifiers	<p>Identifiers are composed from arbitrarily long sequences of letters (A-Z, a-z), digits (0-9), and "_". The first character must be a letter or "_".</p> <p>The language is case sensitive. Thus x and X are treated as different identifiers.</p>

Jack data types

■ Primitive types:

- **Int** 16-bit 2's complement (15, -2, 3, ...)
- **Boolean** 0 and -1, standing for true and false
- **Char** unicode character ('a', 'x', '+', '%', ...)

■ Abstract data types (supplied by the OS or by the user):

- **String**
- **Fraction**
- **List**
- ...

■ Application-specific types:

- **BankAccount**
- **Bat / Ball**
- ...

Jack data types: memory allocation

```
// This code assumes the existence of Car and Employee classes.
// Car objects have model and licensePlate fields.
// Employee objects have name and Car fields.
var Employee e, f; // Creates variables e, f that contain null references
var Car c;         // Creates a variable c that contains a null reference
...
let c = Car.new("Jaguar","007") // Constructs a new Car object
let e = Employee.new("Bond",c)   // Constructs a new Employee object
// At this point c and e hold the base addresses of the memory segments
// allocated to the two objects.
let f = e; // Only the reference is copied - no new object is constructed.
```

- Object types are represented by a class name and implemented as a reference, i.e. a memory address
- Memory allocation:
 - Primitive variables are allocated memory space when they are declared
 - Object variables are allocated memory space when they are created via a constructor.

Jack variable kinds and scope

Variable kind	Definition / Description	Declared in	Scope
Static variables	static <i>type name1, name2, ... ;</i> Only one copy of each static variable exists, and this copy is shared by all the object instances of the class (like <i>private static variables</i> in Java)	Class declaration.	The class in which they are declared.
Field variables	field <i>type name1, name2, ... ;</i> Every object instance of the class has a private copy of the field variables (like <i>private object variables</i> in Java)	Class declaration.	The class in which they are declared, except for functions.
Local variables	var <i>type name1, name2, ... ;</i> Local variables are allocated on the stack when the subroutine is called and freed when it returns (like <i>local variables</i> in Java)	Subroutine declaration.	The subroutine in which they are declared.
Parameter variables	<i>type name1, name2, ...</i> Used to specify inputs of subroutines, for example: function void drive (Car c, int miles)	Appear in parameter lists as part of subroutine declarations.	The subroutine in which they are declared.

Jack expressions

A *Jack expression* is one of the following:

- A *constant*;
- A *variable name* in scope (the variable may be *static*, *field*, *local*, or *parameter*);
- The `this` keyword, denoting the current object (cannot be used in functions);
- An *array element* using the syntax *name*[*expression*], where *name* is a variable name of type `Array` in scope;
- A *subroutine call* that returns a non-void type;
- An expression prefixed by one of the unary operators `-` or `~`:
 - *expression*: arithmetic negation;
 - ~ *expression*: boolean negation (bit-wise for integers);
- An expression of the form *expression operator expression* where *operator* is one of the following binary operators:

<code>+</code>	<code>-</code>	<code>*</code>	<code>/</code>	Integer arithmetic operators;
<code>&</code>	<code> </code>			Boolean And and Boolean Or (bit-wise for integers) operators;
<code><</code>	<code>></code>	<code>=</code>		Comparison operators;
- **(*expression*)** : An expression in parenthesis. ■ No operator priority!

Jack Statements

```
let variable = expression;  
or  
let variable [expression] = expression;
```

```
if (expression) {  
    statements  
}  
else {  
    statements  
}
```

```
while (expression) {  
    statements  
}
```

```
do function-or-method-call;
```

```
return expression;  
or  
return;
```


Jack subroutine calls

- General syntax: *subroutineName*(*arg1, arg2, ...*)
- Each argument is a valid Jack expression
- Parameter passing is *by value* (primitive types) or *by reference* (object types)

Example: suppose we have `function int sqrt(int n)`

This function can be invoked as follows:

- `sqrt(17)`
- `sqrt(x)`
- `sqrt(a*c-17)`
- `sqrt(a*sqrt(c-17)+3)`

Etc.

Jack subroutine calls (cont.)

```
class Foo {  
    // Some subroutine declarations - code omitted  
    ...  
    method void f() {  
        var Bar b;          // Declares a local variable of class type Bar  
        var int i;          // Declares a local variable of primitive type int  
        ...  
        do g(5,7);          // Calls method g of class Foo (on this object)  
        do Foo.p(2);        // Calls function p of class Foo  
        do Bar.h(3);        // Calls function h of class Bar  
        let b = Bar.r(4);    // Calls constructor or function r of class Bar  
        do b.q();           // Calls method q of class Bar (on object b)  
        let i = w(b.s(3), Foo.t()); // Calls method w on this object,  
                                   // method s on object b and function  
                                   // or constructor t of class Foo  
        ...  
    }  
}
```

Jack program structure

Class declarations have the following format:

```
class name {  
    field and static variable declarations  
    subroutine declarations  
    // (a sequence of constructor, method,  
    // and function declarations)  
}
```

- Each class in a separate file (compilation unit)
- Jack program = collection of classes, containing a **Main.main()**.

Subroutine declarations have the following formats:

```
constructor type name (parameter-list) {  
    declarations  
    statements  
}
```

```
method type name (parameter-list) {  
    declarations  
    statements  
}
```

```
function type name (parameter-list) {  
    declarations  
    statements  
}
```

```
class Math {  
  Class String {  
    Class Array {  
      class Output {  
        Class Screen {  
          class Memory {  
            Class Keyboard {  
              Class Sys {  
                function void halt():  
                function void error(int errorCode)  
                function void wait(int duration)  
              }  
            }  
          }  
        }  
      }  
    }  
  }  
}
```

Perspective

- Jack is an object-based language: no inheritance
- Primitive type system
- Standard library
- Our hidden agenda: gearing up to understand how to develop the ...
 - Compiler (projects 10 and 11)
 - OS (project 12).